GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN SIKKIM
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in foreign/domestic tourists in India particularly in Sikkim during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop tourist places to promote domestic/ international tourism in the country particularly in Sikkim?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) and (b): There has been a positive growth of 6.2% in the visits of domestic tourists in the country during the year 2001 as compared to the year 2000. However, a negative growth of 8% was registered in the visits of foreign tourists in the country during the year 2001 as compared to the year 2000. The number of visits of domestic and foreign tourists in the States of Sikkim during the year 2000 and 2001 are as follows:-

Year	Number of visits	
Domestic tourists	Foreign tourists	
2000	143105	10409
2001	203306	31028

The decline of visits of foreign tourists during the year 2001 is due to terrorist attack on World Trade Centre, war in Afghanistan and negative perception about the security in the country.

(c): Development of tourism infrastructure including development of tourist places is a continuous process. The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to all the State Governments/UTs for the tourism related projects. Various steps taken to develop tourism in the country include:-

Positioning tourism as a national priority.
Enhancing India's competitiveness as a tourist destination.
Improving and expanding product development.
Creation of world-class infrastructure.
Strategies for Effective marketing.

During the year 2001-2002, 5 projects for an amount of Rs.108.93 lakh have been sanctioned for the development of tourism in the State of Sikkim.